

MICHAEL I. BRAVERMAN (2622)
Getz and Braverman, P.C.
172 East 161st Street
Bronx, New York 10451
Telephone: (718)993-3000
Fax: 402-5183
Attorneys for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
J-QUAN JOHNSON,

Plaintiff,

-against-

PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A
TRIAL BY JURY

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE NEW YORK CITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT, POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT
POWELL, SHIELD NUMBER 9038, JOHN DOE NEW
YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER ONE, JOHN
DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER
TWO, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE
OFFICER NUMBER THREE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK
CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMEBR FOUR, JOHN DOE
NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FIVE,
all "JOHN DOE" names being fictitious and representing
New York City Police Officers whose actual names
remain unknown to plaintiff,

Civil Action

No. _____

COMPLAINT FOR
DAMAGES-

Assault; Battery; 42 U.S.C. §§
1981, 1983, 1985

Defendants.
-----X

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an action brought under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985 and raising supplemental state-law claims sounding in intentional infliction of emotional distress, assault and battery, false arrest, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, regarding the actions of the Defendants.

2. Due to the defendants' actions and inactions, plaintiff was caused to suffer severe and debilitating physical, emotional, and psychological injuries, and was deprived of rights afforded to him by the constitution and laws of both the United States and the State of New York.
3. Plaintiff now seeks damages for the substantial pain and suffering, deprivation of his civil rights, emotional distress, and humiliation.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this complaint under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983, 1985, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1334(a)(2), 1334(a)(3), 1334(a)(4), and 1367(a).
5. Venue is laid, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), in the Southern District of New York where a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to these causes of action occurred, to wit, in the County of New York.

III. PARTIES

6. Plaintiff J-QUAN JOHNSON, twenty-five years of age, was at all times relevant to this complaint a citizen of the United States and a resident of the City of New York in the State of New York.
7. Defendant CITY OF NEW YORK ("CITY") is a municipal corporation, and political subdivision, of the State of New York, organized and existing through the Constitution and laws of the State of New York.
8. The New York City Police Department was established and exists

through the authority of Chapter 18 of the New York City Charter, and pursuant to said Charter and laws enacted there under, defendant CITY owns, operates, manages, directs, and controls the New York City Police Department, which also employs all JOHN DOE POLICE OFFICERS involved in this case.

9. POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT POWELL, SHIELD NUMBER 9038, is and was at all times relevant to this Complaint an employee of defendant CITY, duly appointed and acting as a Police Officer with the aforementioned New York City Police Department. He is sued in his individual capacity.
10. JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER ONE ("JOHN DOE ONE") is and was at all times relevant to this Complaint an employee of defendant CITY, duly appointed and acting as a Police Officer with the aforementioned New York City Police Department. He is sued in his individual capacity.
11. JOHN DOE NEW YORK POLICE OFFICER NUMBER TWO ("JOHN DOE TWO") is and was at all times relevant to this Complaint an employee of defendant CITY, duly appointed and acting as a Police Officer with the aforementioned New York City Police Department. He is sued in his individual capacity.
12. JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER THREE("JOHN DOE THREE") is and was at all times relevant to this

Complaint an employee of defendant CITY, duly appointed and acting as a Police Officer with the aforementioned New York City Police Department. He is sued in his individual capacity.

13. JOHN DOE NEW YORK POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FOUR

("JOHN DOE TWO") is and was at all times relevant to this Complaint an employee of defendant CITY, duly appointed and acting as a Police Officer with the aforementioned New York City Police Department. He is sued in his individual capacity.

14. JOHN DOE NEW YORK POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FIVE

("JOHN DOE TWO") is and was at all times relevant to this Complaint an employee of defendant CITY, duly appointed and acting as a Police Officer with the aforementioned New York City Police Department. He is sued in his individual capacity.

15. At all times relevant to this Complaint, all defendants acted in concert and conspired together through both their acts and omissions and are jointly and severally liable for the harms caused to plaintiff.

16. At all times relevant to this Complaint, all defendants were acting under the color of state law, to wit, the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, customs, and usages of defendant CITY and of the State of New York.

IV. NOTICE OF CLAIM

17. On September 3, 2014, within ninety days following the occurrence of the incidents complained of in this Complaint, plaintiff filed a written Notice of

Claim with defendant CITY pursuant to General Municipal Law § 50-e.

Thirty days since the filing thereof have elapsed without adjustment or payment of plaintiff's claim.

V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

18. On and about June 12, 2014, J-QUAN JOHNSON, a resident of New York City, was playing basketball when he suffered an injury to his Achilles Tendon. On or about June 12, 2014, Plaintiff underwent a surgical repair of his left Achilles Tendon at New York Presbyterian Hospital. In August, 2014, Plaintiff was on antibiotic administered through a PICC line and was still ambulating on crutches.
19. On or about August 31, 2014, Plaintiff's Achilles Tendon was repaired and healing, with stitches in place. Plaintiff's stitches were to be removed on or about September 4, 2014.
20. On August 31, 2014, the Plaintiff was residing at 2109 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, New York. On that date, at approximately 12:00 p.m., a block party was being held on the blocks of Edgecombe Avenue and 164th Street, in the City of New York. The block party was the annual "Love is Love" gathering on Edgecombe and West 164th Street. During the day, the Plaintiff attended the block party and was mostly sitting in a chair in front of a school located on West 164th Street.

21. On August 31, 2014, the Plaintiff was still utilizing crutches, had his left Achilles Tendon area bandaged, was wearing a white t-shirt whereby the Plaintiff's PICC line was clearly visible on his upper chest area.
22. During the day of August 31, 2014, there was no New York City Police contact between the Plaintiff and any of the Defendants.
23. At or about 10:00 p.m., Police Officers appeared on 164th Street and began to disperse the crowd who were attending the block party.
24. At or about 10:30 p.m. Police Officers appeared on 164th Street with nightsticks and gloves with about 6-8 police vehicles and began dispersing the crowd that was attending the block party.
25. At or about 10:30, the Plaintiff, who was sitting in a chair when the Police arrived, got up and began to disperse by walking down the sidewalk towards 457 West 164th Street. The Plaintiff was utilizing his crutches while walking down the street.
26. While walking towards 457 West 164th Street, the Police Officers were aggressively pushing persons who were attending the block party.
27. When the Plaintiff arrived in front of 457 West 164th Street, Defendant, Police Officer Dwight Powell, Shield No. 9038, pushed a female and another unidentified male. As a result of pushing the unidentified male, that male fell into the Plaintiff.
28. The Plaintiff asked Police Officer Powell why he was being so aggressive with the bystanders, and told Police Officer Powell to be careful because of

his left leg. Police Officer Powell then told the Plaintiff "I don't give a fuck about your foot." Plaintiff responded that he did not care that Police Officer Powell was a police officer. At that point, Police Officer Powell slapped the Plaintiff in the face.

29. As the Plaintiff was slapped in the face by Police Officer Powell, he started to stumble backwards, and put up his hands in an attempted to regain his balance.
30. At that point five, unidentified John Doe Police Officers, jumped on top of the Plaintiff and began punching and kicking the Plaintiff about the head, body, arms and legs. Some of the unnamed Police Officers were using their fists, legs and batons while striking the Plaintiff. The five unidentified John Doe Police Officers also began to kick and punch the Plaintiff in his bandaged left leg, where his Achilles Tendon had been repaired. Police Officer Powell was also hitting and punching the Plaintiff about the body, including his legs, arms and torso.
31. The above unnamed John Doe Police Officers One through Five then threw the Plaintiff to the ground onto his stomach. At not time was the Plaintiff resisting arrest nor preventing the unnamed John Doe Police Officers from affecting an arrest of the Plaintiff.
32. While the Plaintiff was on the ground being handcuffed, one unnamed John Doe Police Officer One stood up, looked around the area and then violently

struck the Plaintiff with a metal baton on the Plaintiff's left Achilles Tendon area.

33. This unnamed Police Officer's actions are depicted in a video tape that was taken contemporaneously with the action described.
34. After placing handcuffs upon the Plaintiff, the five unnamed John Doe Officers dragged the Plaintiff through the street approximately for a half of a city block. The actions described are depicted in a video taken contemporaneously with the actions described above.
35. When the Plaintiff was dragged down the block, he was taken to a New York City Ambulance. At that time, Plaintiff was punched in the face two times by one of the unnamed John Doe Police Officers One through Five.
36. During the course of being beaten by the unnamed John Doe Police Officers, the Plaintiff's bandage that was conspicuously wrapped around his left Achilles Tendon, came off. Additionally, as a result of being beaten by the unnamed John Doe Police Officers, the Plaintiff's PICC line was pulled from the Plaintiff's chest causing it to be dislodged and twisted.
37. The Plaintiff was transported from the scene of the beating to New York Presbyterian Hospital.
38. Plaintiff was placed under arrest and charged with the crime of Assault in the Second Degree, specifically with an alleged assault upon Police Officer Dwight Powell.

39. On or about August 3, 2015, all charges against the Plaintiff were dismissed.
40. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and omissions of defendants, plaintiff sustained severe and permanent injuries including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. bruising and swelling about the face and body
 - b. re-injuring and aggravation of plaintiff's prior leg wound
 - c. Re-rupturing of the Plaintiff's left Achilles Tendon
 - d. Left Achilles Tendon Wound Dehiscence
 - e. Infection in Plaintiff's Left Achilles Tendon requiring numerous debridement and soft tissue coverage
 - f. Sural nerve based fasciocutaneous flap placement with split thickness skin grafting
 - g. Reconstruction of Plaintiff's Left Achilles Tendon
 - h. Several surgical procedures to fix, repair and debride Plaintiff's Left Achilles Tendon
 - i. Hospitalization at New York Presbyterian Hospital from August 31, 2014 through October 3, 2014
 - j. Substantial scarring to left Achilles Tendon area
 - k. Substantial scarring to Plaintiff's left arm due to nerve graft
 - l. substantial pain

- m. discomfort
- n. fear
- o. embarrassment
- p. humiliation
- q. emotional distress and severe emotional distress
- r. mental anguish

41. The actions and omissions of defendants violated the following clearly established and well settled federal rights of plaintiff's under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution:

- a. freedom from unreasonable seizure of person
- b. freedom from the use of excessive, unreasonable, unjustified force against a person

COUNT ONE (Federal cause of action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983, 1985 against the individual defendants for violation of plaintiff's Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights)

42. Paragraphs 1 through 34(b) are each repeated, realleged, and reiterated as if fully set forth herein and are incorporated by reference.

43. The actions of all named defendants violated plaintiff's rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution to be free from the use of excessive and unreasonable force, unreasonable seizure, and the application of force, applied in a bad faith, maliciously, and sadistically for the sole purpose of causing harm.

44. As a direct and proximate result thereof, plaintiff claims damages for the injuries set forth above.

COUNT TWO (Federal cause of action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983, 1985, and Monell v. Dept. Of Soc. Serv., 436 U.S. 658 (1978) against the municipal defendant)

45. Paragraphs 1 through 37 are each repeated, realleged, and reiterated as if fully set forth herein and are incorporated by reference.
46. Defendant CITY knew or should have known its employees', agents', or servants' propensity to engage in illegal and wrongful acts detailed above.
47. Prior to August 30, 2014, Defendant CITY and NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT developed and maintained policies and/or customs exhibiting deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of persons incarcerated in the custody of the New York City Police Department, which policies and/or customs caused the violation of plaintiff's rights.
48. Based upon information and belief, it was the policy and/or custom of defendant CITY and the NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT to improperly or inadequately investigate complaints of people in the custody of the NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, and acts of abuse, excessive force, and misconduct were instead tolerated, encouraged, and ratified by defendant CITY and the NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, including incidents in the past where officials from the New York City Police Department beat individuals in police custody in violation

of state and federal law; retaliated against persons in police custody for exercising their right to be free from excessive force of the use of force and otherwise obstructed and manipulated any investigations thereto.

49. These customs and policies regarding the use of such force were, indeed, pervasive and well known around the Department of Corrections and with defendant CITY and NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT.
50. As a result of the above described policies and/or customs, corrections officers of defendant CITY believed that their actions would not be properly monitored by supervisory officers and that misconduct would not be investigated or sanctioned, but, instead, would be tolerated and even encouraged.
51. The above policies and/or customs demonstrated a deliberate indifference on the part of policymakers of defendant CITY to the constitutional rights of persons within CITY who were detained or in the custody of the New York City Police Department, and were the cause of violations of plaintiff's rights alleged herein.
52. As a result of the wrongful, deliberately indifferent and illegal acts of defendant CITY and NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, plaintiff claims damages against defendant CITY for the injuries set forth above.

COUNT THREE (Cause of action for assault against the individual defendants, POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT POWELL, SHIELD NUMBER 9038, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER ONE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER TWO, JOHN

**DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER THREE, JOHN DOE
NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER THREE, JOHN DOE
NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FOUR AND JOHN DOE
NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FIVE**

53. Paragraphs 1 through 51 are each repeated, realleged, and reiterated as if fully set forth herein and are incorporated by reference.
54. Upon threatening the Plaintiff, pushing him to the ground, punching him about his body and face, hitting him with blunt force objects, hitting him with a nightstick, striking him with fists and a metal baton, tightening plaintiff's handcuffs, striking the Plaintiff in a clearly bandaged lower left Achilles Tendon area, defendants POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT POWELL, SHIELD NUMBER 9038, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER ONE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER TWO, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER THREE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMEBR FOUR , JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FIVE, while acting in concert, intentionally made plaintiff fear for his physical well-being and safety and placed him in apprehension of immediate harmful and/or offensive touching.
55. As a direct and proximate result thereof, plaintiff claims damages for the injuries set forth above.

**COUNT FOUR (Cause of action for battery against the individual
defendants, POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT POWELL, SHIELD NUMBER
9038, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER ONE,**

JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER TWO, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER THREE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FOUR, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FIVE

56. Paragraphs 1 through 54 are each repeated, realleged, and reiterated as if fully set forth herein and are incorporated by reference.
57. Upon pushing the Plaintiff to the ground, striking him with fists about the face and body, striking him with blunt force objects including a metal nightstick, punching and striking the Plaintiff in a bandaged area on his left Achilles Tendon area, tightening plaintiff's handcuffs defendants POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT POWELL, SHIELD NUMBER 9038, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER ONE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER TWO, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER THREE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FOUR, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FIVE, while acting in concert, touched and otherwise laid hands on plaintiff intentionally subjecting him to harmful and/or offensive conduct.
58. As a direct and proximate result thereof, plaintiff claims damages for the injuries set forth above.

COUNT FIVE (Cause of action for intentional infliction of emotional distress against the individual defendants, POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT POWELL, SHIELD NUMBER 9038, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER ONE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER TWO, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY

**POLICE OFFICER NUMBER THREE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY
POLICE OFFICER NUMEBR FOUR, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY
POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FIVE**

59. Paragraphs 1 through 57 are each repeated, realleged, and reiterated as if set forth fully and are incorporated herein by reference.
60. Upon threatening plaintiff, striking plaintiff about the face and body with fists and batons, tightening plaintiff's handcuffs, and intentionally striking the Plaintiff in a clearly bandaged area of his left Achilles Tendon, defendants POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT POWELL, SHIELD NUMBER 9038, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER ONE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER TWO, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER THREE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FOUR, NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FIVE, while acting in concert, intentionally and recklessly conducted themselves toward plaintiff in a manner so shocking and outrageous that it exceeded all reasonable bounds of decency so as to cause severe emotional distress.
61. As a direct and proximate result thereof, plaintiff claims damages for the injuries set forth above.

COUNT SIX (cause of action against the municipal defendant under the doctrine of Respondeat Superior)

62. Paragraphs 1 through 70 are each repeated, realleged, and reiterated as if fully set forth herein and are incorporated by reference.

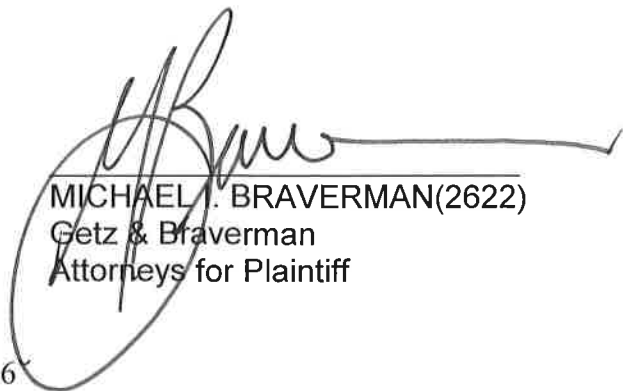
63. Defendant CITY and THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT is liable for all injuries sustained by plaintiff as alleged in this complaint starting on or about August 30, 2014, and continuing thereafter, as a result of the conduct of its agents, servants, and employees, under the doctrine of respondeat superior.
64. Defendant CITY and THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, by its agents, servants, and employees, committed the torts of intentional infliction of emotional distress, assault and battery.
65. As a direct and proximate result thereof, plaintiff claims damages for the injuries set forth above.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against defendants, jointly and severally, respectively as to each and every cause of action alleged hereinabove for compensatory damages on each count; for punitive damages on each count; awarding plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and disbursements of this action; and granting such other and further relief as this court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury

Bronx, New York
September 1, 2015



MICHAEL J. BRAVERMAN(2622)
Getz & Braverman
Attorneys for Plaintiff

172 East 161st Street
Bronx, New York 10451
718-993-3000
Getzandbraverman@aol.com

Civil Action No.

UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

J-QUAN JOHNSON,

Plaintiff,

- against -

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT POWELL, SHIELD NUMBER 9038, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER ONE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER TWO, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER THREE, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FOUR, JOHN DOE NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER NUMBER FIVE, all "JOHN DOE" names being fictitious and representing New York City Police Officers whose actual names remain unknown to plaintiff,

Defendants.

CIVIL COVER SHEET, SUMMONS AND PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A TRIAL BY JURY

GETZ & BRAVERMAN, P.C.

Attorneys for
172 East 161st Street
Bronx, New York 10451
(718) 993-3000
